

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding ground of rejection is respectfully requested in light of the above proposed amendments and the remarks that follow.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over Ostwald in view of Duffy. According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the machine of Ostwald, specifically the insulating bolts 14 with an epoxy power composition coating as suggested in Duffy.

As previously noted, the primary reference to Ostwald discloses a traditional insulating bolt arrangement where the bolt 14 is utilized in combination with a metal washer and an insulating washer 22, with the bolt extending through the core 9 and threaded into the housing 10. A second insulating washer 23 is utilized at the bottom of the core. Thus, Ostwald utilizes no fewer than four separate parts, including the bolt.

The secondary reference to Duffy relates to threaded fasteners and has for its principal object the reduction of insulating drive torque. Thus, Duffy discloses coating the tip end or some additional length of a threaded portion of a fastener with a Teflon® coating. Duffy seeks to provide a coating that will protect, insulate or mask the threads of the fastener from unwanted contamination or a deposition of material on the threads. By lubricating the threads, the fastener is less likely to pick up other materials such as corrosion inhibitors, fibrous insulation, and the like, as the fastener is threaded into a second component.

The Examiner apparently relies on Figure 21 of Duffy to suggest the application of the coating to at least a portion of the threaded shank of the bolt. In this regard, only the first thread 523 of the shank 522 has the lubricating coating applied thereto (see column 19, lines 3 through 7). Duffy also discloses in Figure 24, however, a threaded weld stud where the entire shank 537 is coated with a masking material 538. Note, however, that the threaded weld does not incorporate an integral radial flange.

Applicant proposes to amend both claims 4 and 7 to require that the epoxy powder composition coating be applied at least to the underside of the integral bolt flange, extending continuously from the underside of the bolt flange to a location substantially midway along the threaded shank (see Figures 1 and 3).

Neither of the applied references disclose or suggest this arrangement. Moreover, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to apply the teaching of Duffy to the insulated bolts of Ostwald, it is readily apparent that only the threaded shank portion would be coated. Ostwald would still require the metal washer/insulating washer assembly adjacent the head of the bolt. Given Duffy's objective of reducing torque, there would be no reason to extend Duffy's coating to the underside of the flange in order to otherwise eliminate the need for the metal washer/insulating washer assembly adjacent the bolt head in Ostwald. One would arrive at the now claimed arrangement only through the use of impermissible hindsight.

In addition, both claims require that the coating remain functional when the bolts are fully tightened and at an electrical potential in the range of 500 to 2500 VDC. The Examiner refers to column 4, lines 1-9 of Duffy as disclosing this limitation. The

reference text discloses only that the insulating barrier is effective to 500 to 600 volts of electrical potential.

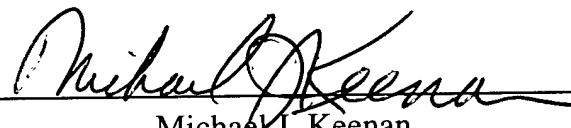
For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Ostwald and Duffy references as cited and applied by the Examiner do not provide sufficient evidence to warrant a conclusion of prima facie obviousness with respect to either of independent claims 4 and 7, or dependent claim 5 that depends from claim 4.

Since the proposed amendments place the application in condition for immediate allowance, entry is fully consistent with 37 CFR 1.116(b). Should any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that the prosecution of this application can be expeditiously concluded.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Michael J. Keenan
Reg. No. 32,106

MJK:ljb
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 4 and 7 as follows:

4. (Amended) A generator assembly comprising a seal casing and an endshield, wherein said seal casing and said endshield are secured by a plurality of electrically insulated bolts, each bolt having a head with an integral flange and a threaded shank[,]; an electrically insulating epoxy powder composition coating on [with some portion of said threaded shank and] the underside of said integral flange, [having] extending continuously from said underside of said flange to a location substantially midway along said threaded shank [applied thereto], and wherein said coating remains functional with said plurality of bolts fully tightened and at an electrical potential in a range of 500-2500 VDC.

7. (Amended) An electrically insulated bolt having a flanged head and a threaded shank[,]; [said shank including at least a portion of said thread provided with] an electrically insulating epoxy powder composition coating having a thickness of about 0.004 to about 0.014 inch applied to at least an underside of the flanged head and extending continuously from said underside of said flanged head to a location substantially midway along said threaded shank, and wherein said coating remains functional when the insulated bolt is fully tightened, at an electrical potential in a range of 500 to 2500 VDC.